Agricultural Indebtedness.

366. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— With reference to Question No. 339, dated 8th August 1933, regarding Agricultural indebtedness, will the Government kindly furnish the information, mentioned in their answers "The Government have already addressed the Chief Court in the matter" and "we will address the Hon'ble Judges of the Chief Court"?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Regarding sub-divisions (a) and (b) of Question No. 339 a statement containing the available information is appended. *(Vide Appendix II).*

As regards sub-divisions (c) and (d) of the same question the information on these points is not available.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What about the answers to 'e' and 'f'?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The question is with regard to 'c' and 'd' and the supplementary question is with regard to 'e' and 'f'.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—My question is with reference to question No. 339 dated 8th August regarding agricultural indebtedness.

President.—The answer was given that the Government have already addressed the Chief Court in the matter and will address the Chief Court. That is the answer.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—The question under reference is not this question. That is question No. 339 dated 8th August. That is the question under reference. And the answer to that is, that the Government have already addressed the Chief Court and will again address the Judges of the Chief Court.

President.—That is the answer given. What is the information referred to here in clause 'e' and 'f'.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The Government have asked for information from the Chief Court on matters dealt within 'a' and 'b'. It could not have asked for any information on 'e' and 'f' as they related to the Economic Survey. The answer given by the Government to 'e' and 'f' is "An economic survey of the State has been started with a view to ascertain the real situation of agriculturists. The question will be considered after the Survey is over. The House must know how we can ask for information to the Chief Court on Economic Survey. With regard to 'c' and 'd' we have said that no information is available.

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President.—The whole question is about 339. But you have restricted your present question to a certain definite matter.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I may respectfully submit that in answer to the question under reference they replied that they will refer the matter to the Chief Court. It includes all the items from (a) to (f). It does not refer only to a portion of the question. It is a comprehensive matter. It refers to the whole question.

President.—Your present question restricts the information to a certain definite matter which cannot be referred to the Chief Court. With reference to all these, certain information are available and they are given. But with regard to questions not covered by the original question I do not think it is within the provision to ask supplementary questions.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Then with reference to (c) may I know why it is so very difficult for the Government to collect information in such a vital matter?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Because the decrees will not say whether the loans were borrowed for productive purposes or not.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—You shall have made other enquires.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Government find it very difficult to have independent enquiries to find out whether a particular loan was for productive purposes or not.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—The Government have admitted that it is a very vital matter and if they want earnestly to solve the problem, is it not necessary that they should find out this matter first. My question is how can this question be solved without getting information like these?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—In the opinion of the Government it is very difficult to get such information.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What are the reasons for the opinion?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The reason is the difficulty in each case to find out whether it was borrowed for productive purposes or not.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Without knowing the actual nature of the indebtedness of the agriculturists you cannot solve this problem.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—That is a matter of opinion.

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Mr. P. Rama Menon.—May I know how the Government got this information. Taking into consideration all the decrees how can the Government know whether it is agricultural indebtedness or not?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—The question was referred to the Chief Court and it is the information furnished by the Chief Court.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Do not the Government think that they ought to have done something to prevent the borrowing of loans for non-productive purposes?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Unfortunately it is not in their power to prevent debtors from paying.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Then what about your Usurious Loans Bill?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon.—Even if the Usurious Loans Bill is passed it will not prevent the amount going to 6 or 8 times the principal.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Can I get some information that if the Usurious Loans Bill was passed it would have prevented the amount of the loan swelling to 8 or 9 times the principal.

President.—The Hon'ble Member will kindly prefer the supplementary questions to the questions that are answered. We have no Usurious Loans Bill now.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—My question is about the Government's failure for not having taken prompt measures against the swelling of interest and I want to know what the Government have done with regard to the Usurious Loans Bill which they have once introduced into this Council. I think it is a vital matter and if they have passed this Bill it would have helped much.

President.—That is not a question but it is your opinion.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What have they done with the Usurious Loans Bill?

President.—That is why I say that the question of the Bill is not relevant to the question here.

Peasantry—progressive ruin of.

367. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— With reference to Question No. 426, dated 11th August 1933 regarding the progressive ruin of our peasantry, will the Government state the reasons for their 'No' and give the answers to the two latter points raised in the question?

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